

United States District Court  
District of Massachusetts

Civil Action No.

FILED  
IN CLERK'S OFFICE  
2005 FEB 23 A 10:11  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

05-30052-1447

CARNELL GARVIN

Plaintiff,

v.

D. A. SULLIVAN & SONS, INC. and  
CONSTRUCTION SAFETY SERVICES, INC.,  
Defendants.

**Jurisdiction**

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, jurisdiction is based on so-called diversity of citizenship of the parties, with the amount in controversy in excess of Seventy-Five Thousand (\$75,000.00) Dollars.

**PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT**

**COUNT I**

1. Plaintiff Carnell Garvin is an individual residing at 5254 Hazel Avenue, in the City of Philadelphia, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
2. Defendant D.A. Sullivan & Sons, Inc. ("Sullivan") is a Massachusetts corporation with a principal place of business at 82-84 North Street, Northampton, County of Hampshire, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
3. Defendant Construction Safety Services, Inc., ("CSSI") is a Canadian corporation with a principal place of business in Ontario, Canada.

SI, CF  
to CL.

4. At all times relevant to the Complaint, Defendant Sullivan was the general contractor for the Berkshire Hills Regional School District Elementary School construction/renovation project located at 318 Monument Valley Road, Great Barrington, County of Berkshire, Commonwealth of Massachusetts. 01230 ("the Project").
5. At all times relevant to the Complaint, Defendant CSSI was engaged to provide construction safety services at the Project.
6. At all times relevant to the Complaint, Plaintiff Carnell Garvin was employed by a roofing subcontractor to perform work on the Project.
7. At all times relevant to the Complaint, Defendant Sullivan retained control in regard to the safety of workers on the Project, including Plaintiff Carnell Garvin.
8. On or about July 23, 2004, Defendant Sullivan negligently failed to maintain a reasonably safe workplace at the Project, including, but not limited to, failing to provide/install or ensure provision/installation of adequate and proper fall protection including, but not limited to, nets; safety cables; life-lines; catch platforms; tie-offs; stanchions for use with safety cables; anchorages; decking; and/or rolling scaffolds devices, failing to enforce all applicable codes and regulations regarding fall protection, and failing to adopt, enact, employ and enforce proper and adequate safety programs, precautions, procedures, measures and plans to protect workers on the Project.
9. As a result of the aforementioned negligence of Defendant Sullivan, Plaintiff Carnell Garvin was caused to fall a substantial distance and suffered serious and permanent injury in the course of performing his duties on the Project.

**WHEREFORE**, PLAINTIFF CARNELL GARVIN demands judgment against DEFENDANT D.A. SULLIVAN & SONS, INC. in the sum of Forty Million (\$40,000,000.00), plus interest and costs.

## **COUNT II**

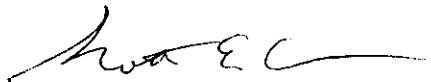
10. Plaintiff Carnell Garvin reaffirms and re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 6 as if specifically reaffirmed and re-alleged herein.

11. At all times relevant to the Complaint, Defendant CSSI retained control in regard to the safety of workers on the Project, including Plaintiff Carnell Garvin.
12. On or about July 23, 2004, Defendant CSSI negligently failed to maintain a reasonably safe workplace at the Project, including, but not limited to, failing to provide/install or ensure provision/installation of adequate and proper fall protection including, but not limited to, nets; safety cables; life-lines; catch platforms; tie-offs; stanchions for use with safety cables; anchorages; decking; and/or rolling scaffolds devices, failing to enforce all applicable codes and regulations regarding fall protection, and failing to adopt, enact, employ and enforce proper and adequate safety programs, precautions, procedures, measures and plans to protect workers on the Project.

**WHEREFORE**, PLAINTIFF Carnell Garvin demands judgment against DEFENDANT CONSTRUCTION SAFETY SERVICES, INC. in a sum of Forty Million (\$40,000,000.00), plus interest and costs.

**PLAINTIFF DEMANDS TRIAL BY JURY ON ALL COUNTS.**

Respectfully submitted,  
The Plaintiff,  
By his attorneys,



Scott E. Charnas, BBO# 081240  
MANHEIMER & CHARNAS, LLP  
210 Commercial Street  
Boston, MA 02109  
617-557-4700

DATED: February 22, 2005

**CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

**I. (a) PLAINTIFFS**

Carnell Garvin

**(b)** COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF Philadelphia  
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)**(c)** ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER)Scott E. Charnas  
Manheimer & Charnas, LLP  
210 Commercial St., Boston, MA 02109  
617-557-4700**DEFENDANTS**D.A. Sullivan & Sons, Inc. and  
Construction Safety Services, Inc.COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED DEFENDANT Hampshire  
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN)

Unknown

**II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION**

(PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff  
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant  
☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)  
☒ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

**III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES**

(For Diversity Cases Only)

(PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX FOR PLAINTIFF AND ONE BOX FOR DEFENDANT)

- |   | PTF                                   | DEF                        |   | PTF                        | DEF                        |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Citizen of This State                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1            | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business in This State     | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business in Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3            | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation  | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

**IV. ORIGIN**

(PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding  
☐ 2 Removed from State Court  
☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court  
☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened  
☐ 5 Transferred from another district (specify)  
☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation  
☐ 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

**V. NATURE OF SUIT**

(PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability <b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 610 Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> 620 Other Food & Drug <input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 630 Liquor Laws <input type="checkbox"/> 640 R.R. & Truck <input type="checkbox"/> 650 Airline Regs. <input type="checkbox"/> 660 Occupational Safety/Health <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other <b>LABOR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 <b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) <b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS - Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce/ICC Rate etc. <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influence and Corrupt Organization <input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 <input type="checkbox"/> 881 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 882 Economic Stabilization Act <input type="checkbox"/> 883 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 884 Energy Allocation Act <input type="checkbox"/> 885 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes <input type="checkbox"/> 990 Other Statutory Actions

**VI. CAUSE OF ACTION**

(CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE. DO NOT CITE JURISDICTIONAL STATUTES UNLESS DIVERSITY.)

As a result of Defendants' negligent failure to supply adequate fall protection and other negligence, Plaintiff, while employed on a construction site, was caused to fall a substantial distance. He sustained catastrophic injuries.

**VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:**CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION  
☐ UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

DEMAND \$ 40 million

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☒ YES ☐ NO**VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY** (See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_ APPLYING IFP \_\_\_\_\_ JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_ MAG. JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

1. Title of case (name of first party on each side only) Carnell Garvin v. D.A. Sullivan & Sons Inc. and Construction Safety Services, Inc.

2. Category in which the case belongs based upon the numbered nature of suit code listed on the civil cover sheet. (See local rule 40.1(a)(1)).

☐

I. 160, 410, 470, R.23, REGARDLESS OF NATURE OF SUIT.

☐

II. 195, 368, 400, 440, 441-444, 540, 550, 555, 625, 710, 720, 730, 740, 790, 791, 820\*, 830\*, 840\*, 850, 890, 892-894, 895, 950.

\*Also complete AO 120 or AO 121 for patent, trademark or copyright cases

☒

III. 110, 120, 130, 140, 151, 190, 210, 230, 240, 245, 290, 310, 315, 320, 330, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 362, 365, 370, 371, 380, 385, 450, 891.

☐

IV. 220, 422, 423, 430, 460, 510, 530, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 690, 810, 861-865, 870, 871, 875, 900.

☐

V. 150, 152, 153.

3. Title and number, if any, of related cases. (See local rule 40.1(g)). If more than one prior related case has been filed in this district please indicate the title and number of the first filed case in this court.

None

4. Has a prior action between the same parties and based on the same claim ever been filed in this court?

YES ☐

NO ☒

5. Does the complaint in this case question the constitutionality of an act of congress affecting the public interest? (See 28 USC §2403)

YES ☐

NO ☒

If so, is the U.S.A. or an officer, agent or employee of the U.S. a party?

YES ☐

NO ☒

6. Is this case required to be heard and determined by a district court of three judges pursuant to title 28 USC §2284?

YES ☐

NO ☒

7. Do all of the parties in this action, excluding governmental agencies of the united states and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("governmental agencies"), residing in Massachusetts reside in the same division? - (See Local Rule 40.1(d)).

YES ☒

NO ☐

A. If yes, in which division do all of the non-governmental parties reside?

Eastern Division ☐

Central Division ☐

Western Division ☒

B. If no, in which division do the majority of the plaintiffs or the only parties, excluding governmental agencies, residing in Massachusetts reside?

Eastern Division ☐

Central Division ☐

Western Division ☐

8. If filing a Notice of Removal - are there any motions pending in the state court requiring the attention of this Court? (If yes, submit a separate sheet identifying the motions)

YES ☐

NO ☐

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

ATTORNEY'S NAME Scott E. Charnas

ADDRESS Manheimer & Charnas, LLP, 210 Commercial St., Boston, MA 02109

TELEPHONE NO. 617-557-4700